

Sponsors

National Level

Council for Environmental Education (CEE)
Western Association of Fish and Wildlife
Agencies (WAFWA)

State Level

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Iowa Department of Education
Iowa Association of County Conservation
Boards
Iowa Conservation Education Council

Local Level

County Conservation Boards
Colleges and Universities
Area Education Agencies



More than 600,000 U.S. educators have participated in Project WILD workshops, providing instruction to more than 38 million youth.

Background

Project WILD is a nation-wide conservation and environmental education program initiated in 1980 through a partnership between the Council for Environmental Education and the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The *Project WILD Activity Guide* became available to educators and youth leaders in 1983 and *Project WILD Aquatic* was introduced in 1987.

The goal of *Project WILD* is to assist learners of any age in developing awareness, knowledge, skills, and commitment which will result in informed decisions, responsible behavior, and constructive actions concerning wildlife and the environment upon which all life depends.

This interdisciplinary, hands-on program for pre-schoolers through adults is a simple way for educators to gain confidence in using the out-of-doors as an effective learning setting. It is based on the idea that young people and educators have a vital interest in learning about our natural world and addresses the need for human beings to develop as responsible citizens of our planet.

The program emphasizes wildlife because of its intrinsic and ecological values, as well as its importance, as a basis for teaching how ecosystems function. It uses wildlife as a springboard for getting children excited about learning. Basic wildlife concepts are integrated into other curriculum areas.

The hands-on activities develop not only science skills, but other disciplines such as social studies, language arts, and math. They help students learn “how” to think not “what” to think.

Projects *WILD* and *WILD Aquatic*



Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Updated 2007

Curriculum

Project WILD and *WILD Aquatic* are balanced and fair, neither pro nor con on value-sensitive issues. They guide students through a process that begins with awareness, moves toward understanding, challenges preconceived notions, and instills the confidence, skills, and motivation needed to take responsible action on behalf of the environment.

The well organized guides are full of activities that may be immediately added to any K-12 curriculum. Each activity contains all the information needed to conduct the activity including objectives, methods, background information, a list of materials needed, procedures, evaluation suggestions, recommended grade levels, subject areas, duration, group size, setting, and key terms. A glossary is provided, as well as a cross-reference by topics and skills.

The importance of habitat is the underlying theme. Habitat is the arrangement of food, water, shelter, and space suitable to meet an organism's needs. Wildlife cannot survive without suitable habitat.

While habitat is a central concept, **three themes** presented in the *Project WILD* conceptual framework build on this foundation (the conceptual framework is located in the back of each activity guide). The *Project WILD* and *WILD Aquatic* guides are divided into three major sections that reflect these conceptual themes:

- I. Ecological Knowledge
- II. Social and Political Knowledge
- III. Sustaining Fish and Wildlife Resources

Materials

Project WILD and *WILD Aquatic* are correlated to the national science standards.

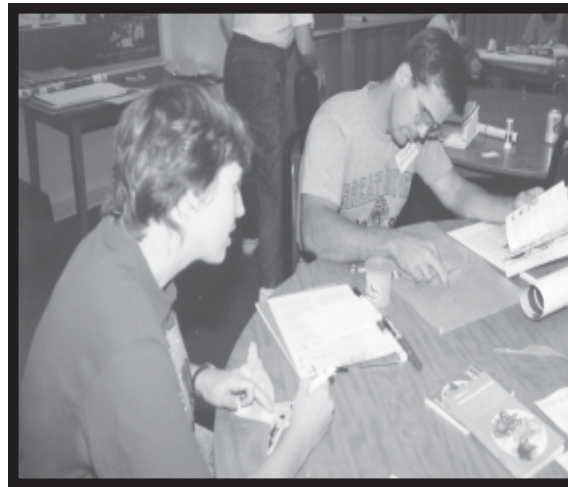
Materials have been extensively tested in classroom settings and are evaluated on an ongoing basis.

Availability

Materials are available **only** through workshop/training sessions which demonstrate their use (six hours). Workshops can be held for teachers, scout leaders, camp personnel, and others. You may request a workshop in your area for a group of at least 15 educators/youth leaders.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources also provides training through some 25 college and university science methods classes for pre-service teachers.

More than 12,000 Iowa educators have participated in *Project WILD* workshops and use the materials with more than 500,000 Iowa youth.



For information about upcoming workshops, visit our website (www.iowadnr.gov/education/index.html) or contact the state office, phone/fax 641/747-2200; Email: AquaticEd_Info@dnr.iowa.gov.

Cost

Materials for *Projects WILD* and *WILD Aquatic* are funded by Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration monies and the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. Materials are provided **free** of charge. Participants may be asked to pay a nominal fee to cover training and miscellaneous expenses (food and/or facilitator stipends).



Description

Project WILD K-12 Curriculum and Activity Guide – contains 120 activities that deal with wildlife and their habitats.

An Iowa Supplement to Project WILD – contains Iowa-specific supplemental information, teaching suggestions, evaluation, student materials, teaching aids, additional references, and copy pages for student use.

Project WILD Aquatic K-12 Curriculum and Activity Guide – contains about 50 activities that focus on aquatic wildlife and aquatic ecosystems.

An Iowa Supplement to Project WILD Aquatic – provides teachers with Iowa-specific background information, student materials, and sample worksheets. It is designed to decrease the time required to prepare for *Project WILD Aquatic* activities.